

**SUMMARY OF CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING
UNDERGROUND UTILITY PROJECTS**

RULE 20A UNDERGROUNDING UTILITY PROJECTS

Approved by CPUC, 1968, revised 2002.

The governing body of the City or County in which such electric facility are and will be located has determined, after consultation with the Utility and after holding public hearings on the subject, that such undergrounding is in the public interest for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. Such undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electrical facilities;
- b. The street or road right-of-way is intensively used by the general public and carries a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
- c. The street or road right-of-way adjoins or passes through a civic area or public recreation area or an area of unusual scenic interest to the general public.
- d. The street or road or right-of-way is considered an arterial or major collector as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE CITY OF SAN JOSE:

1. Projects that complement City capital improvement projects (1978).
2. Completion of undergrounding adjacent to undergrounding accomplished by other projects (1978).
3. Projects that front city facilities such as parks, libraries, and fire stations (1978).
4. Projects in the Core (Downtown) Area (1978).
5. Projects that minimize costs to single family residences (1978).
6. Projects that are done in conjunction with light rail transit projects (1985).
7. Projects that are on gateway streets to the downtown area (1985).
8. Twenty percent (20%) of Rule 20A funds will be designated for projects adjacent to city parks (1986).
9. Projects in Redevelopment or Neighborhood Business District areas (1987).

RULE 20B (IN-LIEU FEE) UNDERGROUNDING UTILITY PROJECTS

Approved March 16, 1993

The criteria and procedures to create underground utility districts are specified in the San José Municipal Code. Proposed districts must be determined to be in the general public interest for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. Such removal and replacement underground will eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of poles and overhead wires within said area;
- b. The public streets or rights-of-way within said area are extensively used by the general public and carry a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic;

- c. The public streets or rights-of-way within said area adjoin or pass through a civic area or public recreation area or an area of unusual scenic interest to the general public.

GENERAL CRITERIA

The purpose of the General Criteria is to ensure that all projects included in the Workplan provide opportunities for cost effectiveness due to lower unit costs resulting from large aggregated projects, and are in areas where in-lieu fees have been paid. To date, in-lieu fees have been paid for 509 private development projects throughout the City. The Undergrounding Master Plan, listing 268 proposed projects areas that meet the General Criteria, has been developed by staff and is presented in Attachment E. The listing is presented in sequence of the percentage of proposed project frontage for which in-lieu fees have been paid (highest to lowest). The Undergrounding Master Plan is developed through consideration of the following General Criteria:

- 1. A minimum 600 feet of overhead facilities to be replaced. Projects that meet this criterion are eligible for certain credits from utility companies resulting in a lower cost per foot to complete the project.
- 2. Percentage of proposed project frontage for which in-lieu fees have been paid. The percentage of frontage length paid to date, the higher the priority.
- 3. Development frontages where undergrounding in-lieu fees have been paid and held by the City for five or more years. Fees must be returned if a project area cannot be identified (as shown in the Master Plan) within five years.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

The purpose of the Specific Criteria is to provide specific guidelines for staff in selecting project areas for the Workplan. The Specific Criteria ensure that actions required of the City by executed agreements are implemented and also provide the flexibility to coordinate with other scheduled projects and programs. The proposed workplan, presented in Attachment B, has been developed through an evaluation of the Specific Criteria applicable to the listing of proposed project areas identified in the Undergrounding Master Plan.

- a. Projects for which agreements with the Utility Companies have been executed or approved for execution.
- b. Projects for which Legislation (City Ordinance) establishing an underground utility district have been adopted.
- c. Projects proposed in the last approved workplan for which review, field investigation and coordination with the utility company representative have begun.
- d. Projects requiring completion by specific dates to avoid return of fees paid per executed agreements (Improvement District Projects).
- e. Projects that can be constructed in conjunction with other planned improvements by the City (CIP Projects).
- f. Projects that can be implemented in conjunction with private development construction activities.
- g. Projects that were proposed in the last approved workplan for which coordination with utility companies has not begun.
- h. Distribution among Council Districts in as equitable manner as possible.